

CLAIMS

We claim:

1 1. A method for operating a server for managing message
2 communications in a network system, comprising:

3 first receiving from a first user a request to enter
4 chat mode with a second user;

5 second receiving asynchronously from said second user a
6 request to download any content from said server or any
7 other intranet or Intranet server;

8 responding to said request from said second user with
9 said content modified to instantiate a chat session
10 between said first user and said second user.

1 2. The method of claim 1, said first receiving further
2 comprising:

3 said first user downloading from said server browser
4 executable code for initiating a chat session;

5 executing at a first browser said browser executable
6 code to display a chat invitation form including a
7 header field, and instruction field, one or more fields
8 for entering user identifiers, and a message field at a
9 first browser;

10 said first user entering to said chat invitation form
11 one or more user identifiers including a user
12 identifier for said second user, and optionally a
13 message to said message field;

14 establishing a persistent connection between said first
15 browser and said server; and

16 submitting said request to said server including data
17 entered to said chat invitation form.

1 3. The method of claim 2, said responding further
2 comprising:

3 responsive to said second receiving, determining that
4 said second user requesting content from said server is
5 that user identified by said user identifier for said
6 second user;

7 serving to said second user said content modified to
8 instantiate at a second browser a window including a
9 header field, a messages field, and a response field;

10 establishing a persistent connection between said
11 second browser and said server to establish a channel
12 for message exchange between said first and second
13 browsers with said server acting as proxy.

1 4. The method of claim 2, said responding further
2 comprising:

3 responsive to said second receiving, determining that
4 said second user requesting content from said server is
5 that user identified by said user identifier for said
6 second user;

7 serving to said second user a response including code
8 selectively replacing or appended to said content for
9 instantiating at a second browser a window including a
10 header field, a messages field, and a response field;

11 establishing a persistent connection between said
12 second browser and said server to establish a channel

13 for message exchange between said first and second
14 browsers with said server acting as proxy.

1 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

2 authenticating said first user to a message engine at
3 said server to enable unicast messaging capabilities;
4 and thereafter

5 serving to said first user, in response to an
6 asynchronous message from said first user requesting
7 server content, a user interface to a collaboration
8 tool for conveying text and/or multimedia messages with
9 respect to said first user and an administration
10 server.

1 6. A messaging system, comprising:

2 a first user browser;

3 a second user browser;

4 a communication network interconnecting said first user
5 browser and said second user browser through a common

6 server;

7 a message engine at said common server for:

8 first receiving from said first user browser a
9 request to enter chat mode with said second user
10 browser;

11 second receiving asynchronously from said second
12 user browser a request to download any content
13 from said common server or any other intranet or
14 Internet server;

15 responding to said request from said second user
16 browser with said content modified to instantiate
17 a chat session between said first user browser and
18 said second user browser.

1 7. A program storage device readable by a machine,
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a
3 machine to perform method steps for operating a server for
4 managing message communications in a network system, said
5 method comprising:

6 first receiving from a first user a request to enter
7 chat mode with a second user;

8 second receiving asynchronously from said second user a
9 request to download any content from said server or any
10 other intranet or Internet server;

11 responding to said request from said second user with
12 said document modified to instantiate a chat session
13 between said first user and said second user.

1 8. The program storage device of claim 7, said first
2 receiving further comprising:

3 said first user downloading from said server browser
4 executable code for initiating a chat session;

5 executing at a first browser said browser executable
6 code to display a chat invitation form including a
7 header field, and instruction field, one or more fields
8 for entering user identifiers, and a message field at a
9 first browser;

10 said first user entering to said chat invitation form

11 one or more user identifiers including a user
12 identifier for said second user, and optionally a
13 message to said message field;

14 establishing a persistent connection between said first
15 browser and said server; and

16 submitting said request to said server including data
17 entered to said chat invitation form.

1 9. The program storage device of claim 8, said responding
2 further comprising:

3 responsive to said second receiving, determining that
4 said second user requesting content from said server is
5 that user identified by said user identifier for said
6 second user;

7 serving to said second user said content modified to
8 instantiate at a second browser a window including a
9 header field, a messages field, and a response field;

10 establishing a persistent connection between said
11 second browser and said server to establish a channel

12 for message exchange between said first and second
13 browsers with said server acting as proxy.

1 10. The program storage device of claim 8, said responding
2 further comprising:

3 responsive to said second receiving, determining that
4 said second user requesting content from said server is
5 that user identified by said user identifier for said
6 second user;

7 serving to said second user a response including code
8 selectively replacing or appended to said content for
9 instantiating at a second browser a window including a
10 header field, a messages field, and a response field;

11 establishing a persistent connection between said
12 second browser and said server to establish a channel
13 for message exchange between said first and second
14 browsers with said server acting as proxy.

1 11. The program storage device of claim 10, said method
2 further comprising:

3 authenticating said first user to a message engine at
4 said server to enable unicast messaging capabilities;
5 and thereafter

6 serving to said first user, in response to an
7 asynchronous message from said first user requesting
8 server content, a user interface to a collaboration
9 tool for conveying text and/or multimedia messages with
10 respect to said first user and an administration
11 server.

1 12. A computer program product for operating a server for
2 managing message communications in a network system
3 according to the method comprising:

4 first receiving from a first user a request to enter
5 chat mode with a second user;

6 second receiving asynchronously from said second user a
7 request to download content from said server or any
8 other intranet or Internet server;

9 responding to said request from said second user with
10 said content modified to instantiate a chat session

11 between said first user and said second user.